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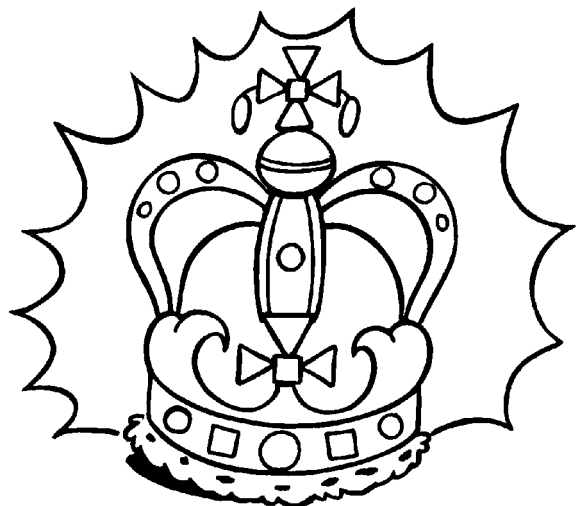


**Tommy Tales are downloadable and printable
books only available on the Internet
from the following Web sites:
www.learningpage.com
www.readinga-z.com**

**Tommy Tales feature the lovable rascal
Tommy Tomkins and his friends.**

**Supporting material is available on the
Learning Page Web site, including
teaching notes, worksheets, and fact files.**

**Look for the next Tommy Tales adventure—
coming soon from Learning Page.**



BOOK 26



**Tommy Goes
to London**



Tommy Tales

It was a sunny Saturday morning. Tommy and Sam went to the park to meet their friends. Lucy, Andy, and Kim were waiting for them on the big blue bench.

"What do you have there, Sam?" asked Andy.

"It's a postcard from my cousin in London. There's a photo of a castle on the front. It's called the Tower of London."

"Wow, it looks really old," said Kim.



Within an hour, Tommy and his friends were in a different royal house. They were in Buckingham Palace, the home of the Queen.

The Queen wanted to thank Tommy for saving the crown jewels. She was so pleased that she gave him a medal for his bravery.

After they left the Queen, Sam said, "Where shall we go now?"

"I've had enough excitement for one day," said Tommy. "I want to go home. Please take us back to the park, RK-5."



Tommy untied the rope. He tied one end into a lasso and tied the other tight to a flagpole. When Tommy reached the top of the ladder, the robbers were climbing down. When they were about halfway down, Tommy threw the lasso around the two men, pulled the rope tight, and knocked over the ladder.

Tommy left the robbers dangling on the rope. They shouted but they couldn't escape.

The shouting brought the beefeaters. Everyone soon knew that Tommy had caught the jewel thieves.



"It is old," said Lucy. "It was built almost a thousand years ago."

"Lucy knows her English history," said Tommy.

"Not really," replied Lucy. "It's written right here on the back. 'Tower of London, built in 1070 by William the Conqueror.' Your cousin also wrote that they saw the Queen's crown and jewels."

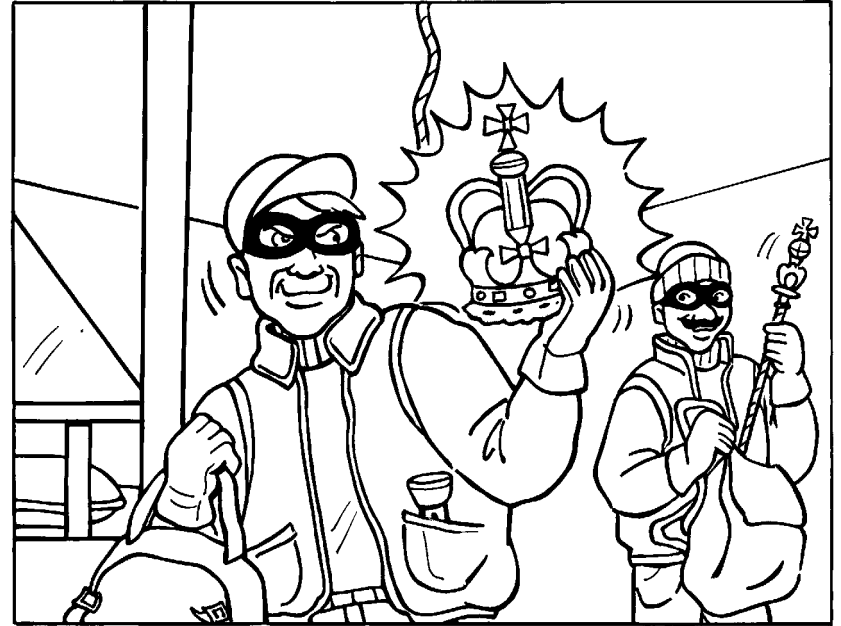
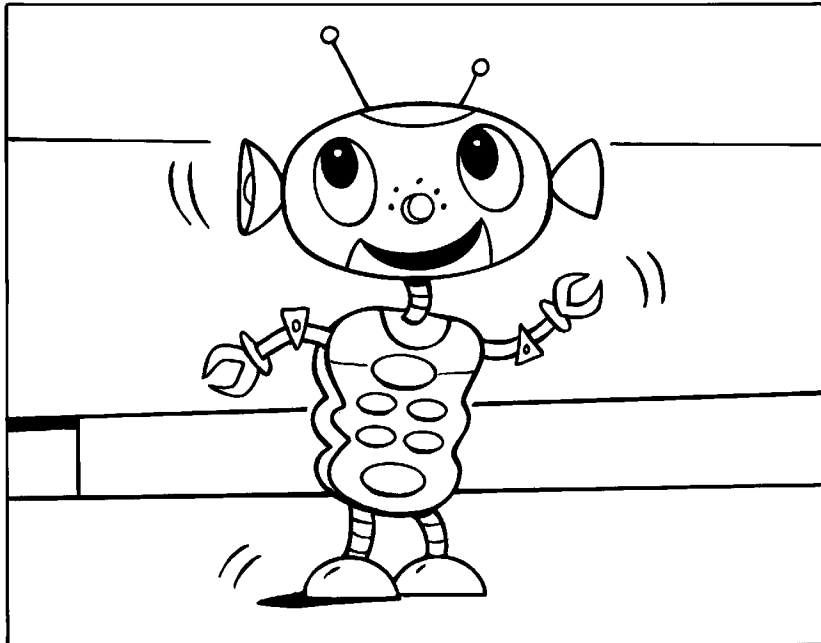
"Wouldn't it be cool to go to London?" asked Andy, with a smile.

The other kids knew why Andy was smiling. Tommy had a robot who could transport the friends anywhere they wanted to go.

Tommy took RK-5, the little robot, from his pocket.

“Everyone would like to go to London. Can you take us there?” asked Tommy.

“Of course I can take you to the capital city of England. I can take you anywhere. I can even take you to the past or into the future,” said RK-5.



Robbers! thought Tommy.

Tommy watched as the robbers broke open the glass display. They began filling their backpacks with jewels.

The robbers moved quickly and silently. Soon their bags were full, and they climbed back through the hole in the ceiling.

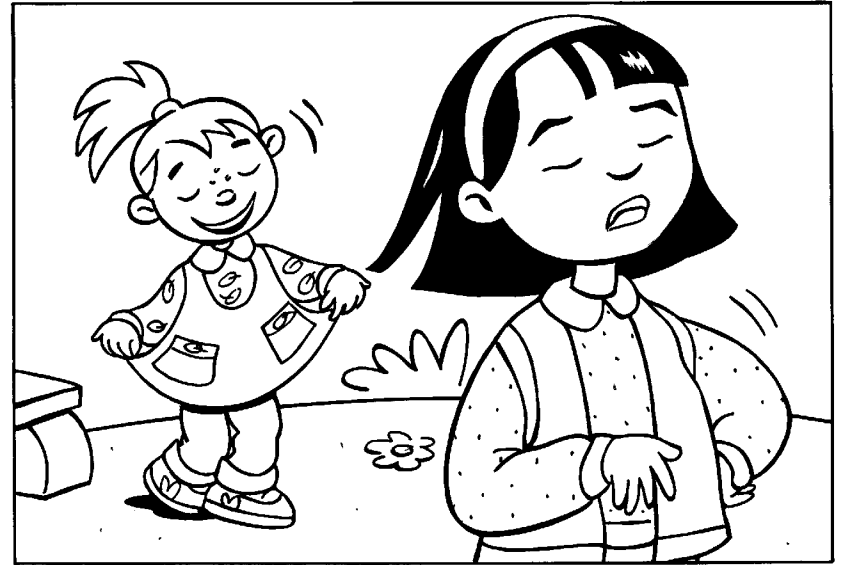
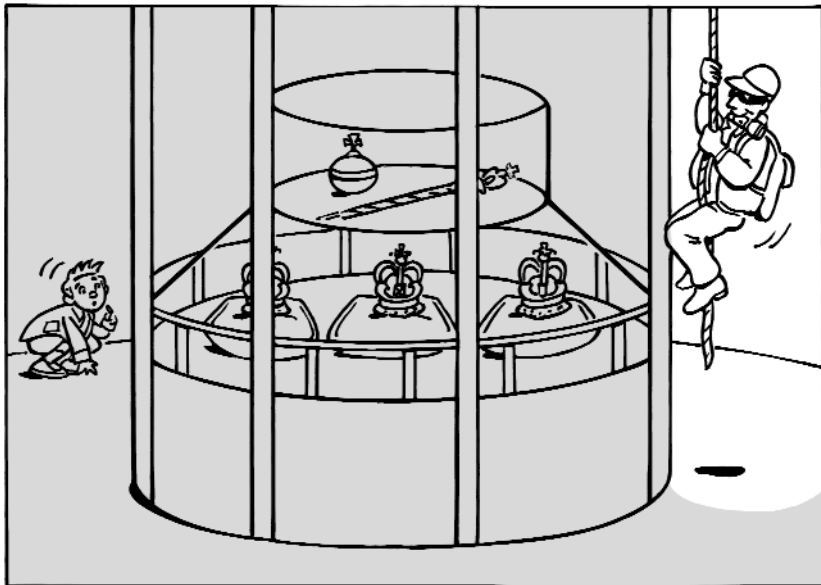
Tommy couldn't let them escape. He followed the robbers up the rope. He saw the robbers on the roof making their way toward a ladder.

Tommy sat down in the corner, and soon he was fast asleep.

A noise above Tommy's head awoke him. He didn't know how long he'd been sleeping. But he was now wide awake.

A shaft of light appeared from a hole in the ceiling. Then a rope dropped down from the hole. A pair of legs began sliding down the rope.

Tommy watched as two men silently slid down the rope. They had flashlights and large backpacks.



"We'd like to visit present-day London," interrupted Kim. "We always get into trouble when we go to the past."

"We could go see the Queen," said Sam.

"The Queen won't see us," said Kim. "She's much too important."

RK-5 told Tommy which buttons to press on the little robot's number pad. After Tommy pressed the numbers, there was a flash of light and a cloud of blue smoke. When the smoke cleared, there were no children on the big blue bench.

Tommy opened his eyes. He saw that he and his friends were sitting on a wall. A big river flowed below them. The river was so wide that large boats were floating by.

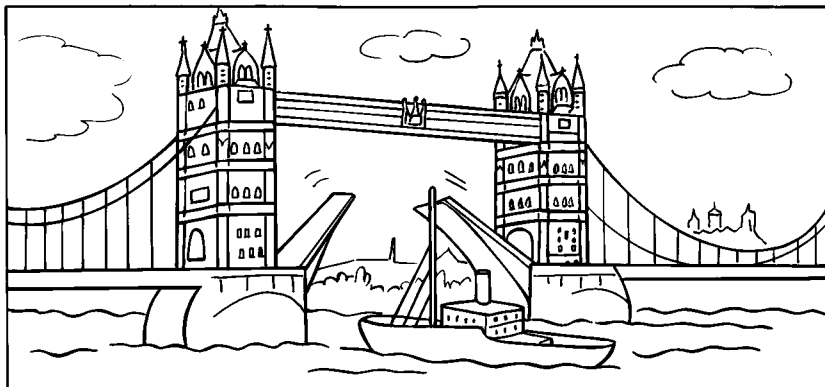
"Look at the bridge," said Sam. "It's huge."

RK-5 told them that it was Tower Bridge.

"Cars and buses cross the bridge, as well as walkers," he said.

"Look!" said Andy. "The road across the bridge is moving. It's opening up to let that big boat go through."

The children waved at the people on the boat. When the road went back down, they walked across the bridge to visit the Tower of London.



A bell rang, and a beefeater told them it was time to close. They all walked out of the Jewel House. Tommy looked for Taffy.

Oops, Taffy's been left behind, he thought.

He gave RK-5 to Andy and ran back to the Jewel House.

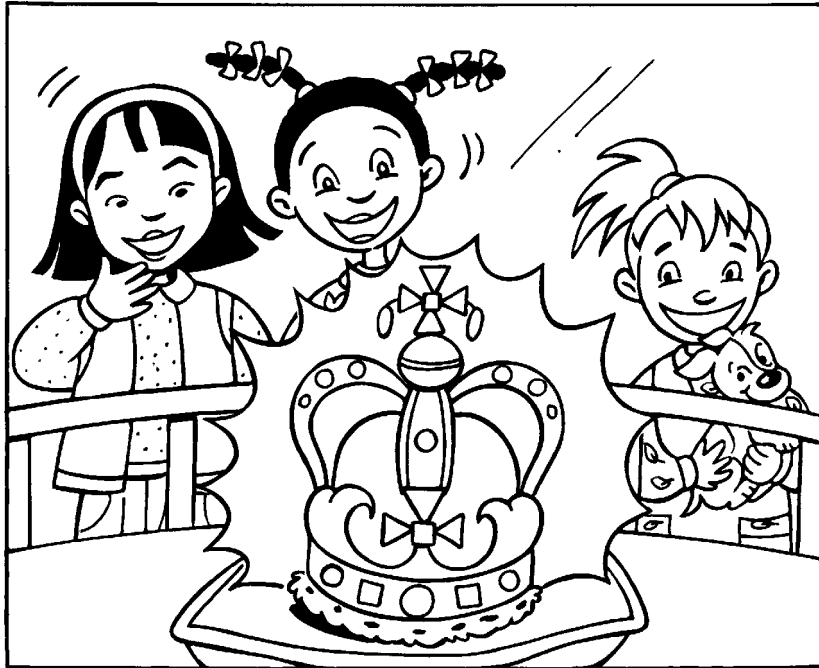


The beefeater didn't see Tommy run past and locked the gates. Tommy was locked inside the Jewel House! He looked around for Taffy but couldn't find him. He called, "Taffy! Where are you?"

The lights went out. Tommy realized that he was all alone.

"Can we see the Queen's crown and jewels?"
Tommy asked the beefeater.

"Yes. Go to the Jewel House, over there.
But you'll have to hurry—it's closing in
10 minutes," advised the beefeater.



They hurried to the Jewel House. They were amazed when they saw the crowns and all the jewels. The diamonds, rubies, and pearls sparkled in the light. A sign said that the jewels were worth more money than could be counted.



RK-5 told the children that the Tower was first built as a place for kings to live. He said that over the years, other kings added pieces to the Tower. Huge, thick walls were added to keep out enemies.

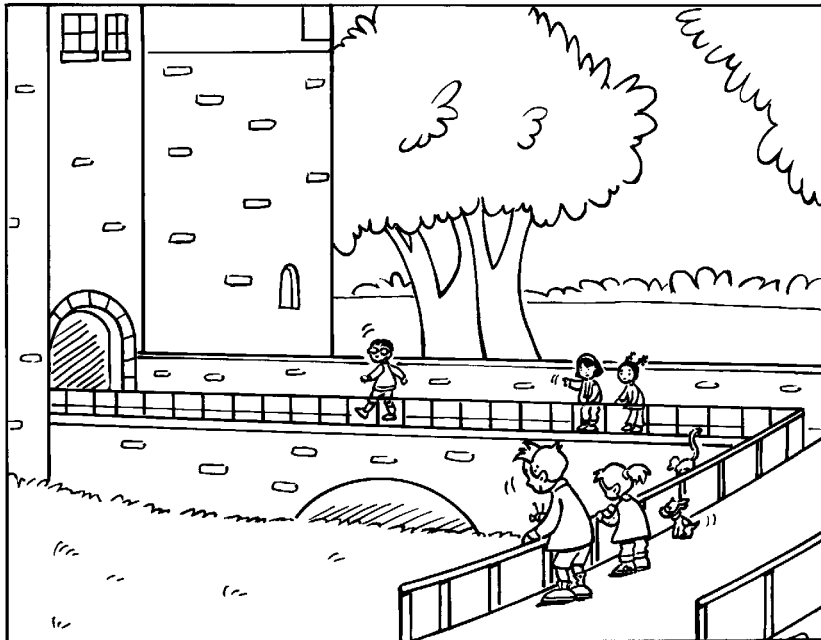
"A king called Richard I had a huge ditch dug around the tower walls. It's called a moat. Then it was filled with water from the river we just saw—the River Thames," said RK-5.

"Nobody could get into the Tower grounds unless they had permission," continued RK-5. "To let people inside, a wooden bridge on chains was lowered over the moat. The people could then walk across the bridge, which was called a drawbridge."

"Where's the moat now?" asked Andy.

"The water was smelly and people kept falling in," said RK-5. "So they drained the water hundreds of years ago."

"The moat is just grass now," said Lucy.



The children walked across the stone bridge and went into the Tower grounds. A soldier wearing a funny-looking uniform smiled at the children.

"Who's he?" asked Sam.

"He's a beefeater," answered RK-5. "The beefeaters protect the tower."

"Look at all the big, black birds," said Kim.

"They are ravens," said a voice from behind them. It was the beefeater. "There's an old legend. It says if the ravens ever leave the Tower, both the Tower and England will crumble and fall," added the beefeater. "So the ravens are very important. We treat them well. But don't pet them. They'll peck your fingers."

